Finsch’s Duck *Chenonetta finschi* (Van Beneden 1875)

Finsch’s duck was described by Van Beneden (1875) after bones from Earnscleugh Cave, Otago were studied. He named it after Dr Otto Finsch, with whom he studied the bones. It was originally placed in *Anas*, and then in the monotypic genus *Euryanas* by Oliver in 1955. It is a very common fossil in eastern districts of the main islands.

This duck is closely related to the Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata*, and should be re-united in the same genus. It was possibly flightless, and may have been driven to extinction by the kiore, which apparently arrived before the first Polynesians (Holdaway, Jones & Beavan Athfield 2002).

Worthy & Holdaway (2002) mentioned a possible record that may refer to this species, of a rufous goose-like bird, unable to fly, that was caught in the hills behind Opotiki in the early 1870s (Cockburn-Hood 1875).

**SUB-FOSSIL SPECIES**

This species is considered to have become extinct since human settlement in the 14th century.

Up to 64 species and 20 genera of Moa have been recognized over the last 160 years. Turbott (1990) recognized 11 species in two families, Emeidae and Dinornithidae. Baker et al. (2005) using ancient DNA analysis found that there were fourteen lineages of Moa, which they thought probably corresponded to 14 distinct species.